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COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT North Korean Vehicle Difficulties

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SOURCE

1. Because all vehicles in North Korea except those used by the military forces and a few civilian agencies have been equipped to operate on charcoal, carbide and other substitute fuels, coils, condensers and spark-plugs rapidly become defective. Replacements for these parts are received through the Churin Company, which imports the parts from Dairen. Distribution is only to military agencies.
2. To overcome the difficulty of replacement, the Kiyang factory (125-32, 38-54) and the Pyongyang arsenal attempted to manufacture these parts. The attempts failed, however, because of the poor technical skill of the workers at the plants.
3. About two hundred six-wheel vehicles, with diesel engines, were left at Pyongyang by the Japanese at the end of the war. One hundred and fifty of these were shipped to the USSR after the Soviets occupied North Korea. The remaining fifty were converted to gasoline consuming vehicles and turned over to the People's Army. Because of frequent engine trouble, the vehicles were seldom used, and in May 1950, forty of the remaining vehicles were shipped by freight cars from Pyongyang to Najin (130-15, 42-10) for trans-shipment to the USSR.

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